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of the motion of the Gyroscope, an instrument which is attracting considerable attention at the present time ; ascribing the credit of its invention to the late Professor Walter R. Johnson of Philadelphia.

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**Four hundred and thirtieth meeting.**

September 8, 1856. — MONTHLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

The Corresponding Secretary read letters from Thomas B. Cary, Rev. George E. Ellis, Charles J. Sprague, and John B. Henck, accepting their appointment as Associate Fellows.

A circular was read from the Committee on the Inauguration of the Statue of Franklin, inviting the Academy to join in the procession on the day of that ceremony. It was accordingly voted, —

“ That the Academy accept the invitation thus politely extended to them ; and that the Committee for placing the Statue be invited to make use of the rooms of the Academy as a place of rendezvous on the day of inauguration, Franklin himself having been one of the earliest Fellows of the Academy.”

Dr. Durkee exhibited to the Academy a box of specimens of gigantic *Scarabæidæ* from the vicinity of Gaboon River, Africa ; also specimens of *Platyphyllum concavum* (Katydid), of both sexes, obtained in Milton, Mass. ; also *Spectrum femoratum*.

Professor J. Lovering read, in behalf of Colonel Emory, by title, a “ Memoir containing the Results of Magnetic Observations not yet published ; and combining the Results of all the Magnetic Observations made under my Orders in the United States and Mexican Boundary Commission. By Colonel W. H. Emory.” This memoir was referred to the Committee of Publication.

Dr. Jenks read a highly interesting letter, written on July 21, 1781, by Dr. Richard Price, to President Joseph Willard, who

was then Corresponding Secretary of the Academy. Dr. Jenks having stated that there was probably other valuable correspondence among the papers left by Mr. Willard, Joseph Lovering, Daniel Treadwell, and Francis Bowen were appointed a committee to confer with the descendants of Mr. Willard in regard to the publication of such matter as might illustrate the early history of the Academy.

Dr. Jenks also stated that he had received a communication from Dr. Hamlin, offering to obtain for the Academy the famous Dighton Rock, at an expense of not far from seventy-five dollars, and urging the expediency of the measure, on the ground that the inscription upon it is fast wearing away, and that its situation is such, being covered by every tide, that it is impossible to obtain an accurate cast of it in its present position. It was voted, —

“That the whole subject of the expediency of copying or transporting the rock be referred to a committee of three, namely, Dr. W. F. Channing, Dr. A. A. Gould, and Dr. C. T. Jackson.”

Professor E. Horsford referred to the statement made at a former meeting, on the authority of Mr. Daniels of Wisconsin, that the bones of a fœtal child had been found in that country transformed into pure phosphorus. He exhibited a stick of phosphorus having a rude resemblance to the thigh-bone of a child, and which had been put in his hands as evidence of the statement. It was an ordinary stick of phosphorus, and could not have resulted from spontaneous decomposition of human remains. Mr. Horsford had calculated that the body of a child weighing ten pounds could not furnish more than an ounce of phosphorus.

Dr. C. T. Jackson expressed his concurrence in the remarks of Professor Horsford.